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seem to have some connection with the fertilization of the pistil. I should like to know whether any other species of *Opuntia*, or, indeed, of any of the Cactaceae, have a like sensibility.

I found this afternoon a twig of *Solidago lanceolata*, L., which presents the *decided* peculiarity (to me) of being decidedly glaucous. It grew with large quantities of the common *S. lanceolata* and *S. tenuifolia* along the salt meadows near New Dorp. [The leaves are beset with resin-like spots, not truly glaucous, nor, as Mr. Peck informs us, due to fungoidal growth.—EDS.] N. L. BRITTON.

NEW DORP, Sept. 17th.

§ 190. *Gentiana Andrewsii*, Griseb.—It is curious to see a flower with so conspicuous and high-colored corolla as that of *Gentiana Andrewsii* ranked as probably cleistogamous. Here the corolla opens, like other Gentians, in bright sunshine, although only for a short time. Here, too, humble bees are seen to force their way into the closed flowers in the manner described by W. W. Bailey. The flowers last for a rather long while; the extrorse anthers open and expose the pollen long before the stigmas are ready; when these become exserted by the further growth of the ovary, they at first separate moderately, exposing the receptive surface to an entering bee, but not to the pollen below: at length they diverge widely, become revolute, and in doing so they but rarely bring the stigmatic surface into direct contact with the pollen below,—thus securing self-fertilization when it may no better be. This is the upshot of my observations a year ago in the Botanic Garden here.

A. GRAY.

CAMBRIDGE, Oct. 15th.

§ 191. **Pollen of different sizes.**—In noting the unequal size of the pollen grains of the trimorphic flowers of *Pontederia cordata*, I had forgotten that Darwin had, in 1864, pointed out the difference in color and size of pollen grains of the different kinds of stamens in *Lythrum*. The statement, therefore, that *Pontederia* was perhaps even more curiously trimorphic than *Lythrum*, was hasty. In fact, as Dr. Koehler points out to me, dimorphic as well as trimorphic flowers are known to bear pollen grains varying in size to suit the adaptations of the flowers.

W. H. L.

§ 192. *Viola cucullata*.—Explanation of the economy of the cleistogamous flowers of this plant in the last BULLETIN were read on occasion of the exhibition at the Club of very fine specimens. As printed, without this statement, they seem to be offered as a novelty, to which, of course, they have no claim.

§ 193. **Alpine Plants.**—Mr. C. G. Pringle, of Charlotte, Vt., offers for exchange or sale a few sets of the Alpine Plants of New England, the fruit of his extensive herborizing during the past summer in the White and Green Mountains. Mr. Pringle's collections contain *Gentiana Amarella* var. *acuta* (*American Naturalist*, Vol. II., page 620), *Anemone multifida*, *Astragalus Robbinsii*, *Gnaphalium supinum*, *Orchis rotundifolia*, *Danthonia compressa*, and all, or nearly all, the other rare plants of his region.

§ 194. **Florida Plants.**—Miss M. C. Reynolds, St. Augustine, Fla., has sets of plants for sale. Mr. Le Roy, Columbia College, N. Y., has some of these on hand.